

TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING
OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESI-
DENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 1.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) to provide for the counting on January 6, 2021, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) was agreed to as follows:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, the 6th day of January 2021, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter "A"; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair appoints the Senator from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT, and the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, as tellers on the part of the Senate to count the electoral votes.

EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE
JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COM-
MITTEE ON INAUGURAL CERE-
MONIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 2.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and authorizing the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) was agreed to as follows:

S. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

Effective from January 3, 2021, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 (116th Congress), agreed to June 26, 2020, to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, is continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. USE OF CAPITOL.

The rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol are authorized to be used on January 10, 2021, January 17, 2021, and January 20, 2021 by the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 (116th Congress), agreed to June 26, 2020, in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send to the desk en bloc 11 unanimous consent requests, and I ask for their immediate consideration en bloc; I further ask that the requests be agreed to en bloc, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and that they appear separately in the RECORD.

Before the Chair acts upon my request, I would like to point out that these requests are routine and done at the beginning of each new Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 117th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 117th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the

last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the 117th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority and minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 117th Congress to file reports during the adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend Rule XVI, pursuant to Rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-

at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to agreeing to the unanimous consent agreements en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTION OVER, UNDER THE RULE—S. RES. 4

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for its immediate consideration, and to send the resolution over, under the rule, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The resolution will go over, under the rule.

The resolution (S. Res. 4) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 4

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12:01 p.m. unless otherwise ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT, 116TH CONGRESS

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2444. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4508. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled bills were signed on January 3, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. MCCONNELL).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 4. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; read the first time.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution establishing a Committee to Inform the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; submitted and read.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2021, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and authorizing the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; read the first time.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 11

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense in an appointment made on or after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person nominated after 12:01 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on January 20, 2021, and appointed as Secretary of Defense as described in subsection (a), and to no other person.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from